

# SWGFAST

## Standards for Conclusions

*DRAFT FOR COMMENT*  
*Comment period ends August 8, 2003*

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### 1. INDIVIDUALIZATION (Identification):

The standard for individualization is agreement of sufficient friction ridge details in sequence.

#### 1.1 Conditions that shall be satisfied:

- 1.1.1 Determined by a competent<sup>1</sup> examiner, and
- 1.1.2 Applied to a common area in both impressions, and
- 1.1.3 Based on quantity and quality of the friction ridge details, and
- 1.1.4 Absent any discrepancy, and
- 1.1.5 Reproducible conclusion.

#### 1.2 Basic principles:

- 1.2.1 There is no scientific basis for requiring that a predetermined number of corresponding friction ridge details be present in two impressions in order to effect individualization.<sup>2</sup>
- 1.2.2 Individualization is supported by the theories of biological uniqueness and permanence, probability modeling, and empirical data gained through more than one hundred years of operational experience.

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<sup>1</sup> See SWGFAST Guideline for "Training to Competency".

<sup>2</sup> See SWGFAST Guideline for "Quality Assurance Guidelines for Latent Print Examiners".

## 2. EXCLUSION (Nonidentification):

The standard for exclusion is disagreement of friction ridge details.

### 2.1 Conditions that must be satisfied:

- 2.1.1 Determined by a competent<sup>1</sup> examiner, and
- 2.1.2 Applied to all comparable anatomical areas, and
- 2.1.3 Presence of a discrepancy<sup>2</sup>, and
- 2.1.4 Based on sufficient quantity and quality of the friction ridge details, and
- 2.1.5 Reproducible conclusion.

### 2.2 Basic principles:

- 2.2.1 The presence of one discrepancy is sufficient to exclude.
- 2.2.2 Distortion<sup>3</sup> is not a discrepancy and is not a basis for exclusion.
- 2.2.3 Exclusion is supported by the theories of biological uniqueness and permanence, probability modeling, and empirical data gained through more than one hundred years of operational experience.

## 3. INCONCLUSIVE:

The standard for an inconclusive finding is the absence of sufficient friction ridge details to effect a conclusion of individualization or exclusion.

### 3.1 Conditions that must be satisfied:

- 3.1.1 Determined by a competent<sup>1</sup> examiner, and
- 3.1.2 Based on quantity and quality of the friction ridge details, and
- 3.1.3 Insufficient agreement or disagreement in the friction ridge details, and

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<sup>1</sup> See SWGFAST Guideline for “Training to Competency”.

<sup>2</sup> See SWGFAST Guideline for “Quality Assurance Guidelines for Latent Print Examiners”.

### 3.1.4 Reproducible conclusion.

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<sup>1</sup> See SWGFAST Guideline for “Training to Competency”.

<sup>2</sup> See SWGFAST Guideline for “Quality Assurance Guidelines for Latent Print Examiners”.

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